



November 10, 2001



Alderman Burton Natarus
121 North LaSalle Street Room 306
Chicago, IL 60602

RE: FEDERAL SUPERFUND SITES IN SOUTH STREETERVILLE

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Dear Alderman Natarus:

We are writing about two things related to the above Superfund site that are of great concern to area residents:

1. STREET CONSTRUCTION

-On McCLURG BETWEEN ILLINOIS AND OHIO

-On GRAND AVENUE NEAR 530 N. LAKE SHORE DR. SITE

No notification to the community was given prior to initiation of construction on these streets/sites where known contamination exists. Responsibility for oversight of work has been fragmented and containment of dust, which may be hazardous, has been haphazard or nonexistent. This was exacerbated on Sunday morning, November 4th when the wind from a helicopter that set down briefly on the 341 E. Ohio property caused widespread dispersion of uncontained soil. SOAR and individual residents have alerted both the EPA and the Department of Environment of its concerns. *We now ask your intervention to assure that there is appropriate oversight and compliance for this project, and timely written communication of test results to SOAR.*

2. INCONSISTENT ENFORCEMENT OF EPA/CITY REGULATIONS AND INSUFFICIENT (TO NON-EXISTENT) TIMELY WRITTEN COMMUNICATION OF TEST RESULTS

At the present time, SOAR's review of activities at the city, state, and federal level do not provide assurances that there is a continuous course of compliance with regulations to minimize short and long term risks.

For the most part, residents know they are living in a former industrial area but are probably unaware that they are living in a Superfund site, a designation that denotes a need for continuous monitoring. Presently, there is tremendous frustration stemming from the lack of a transparent process. We have had difficulty obtaining information in a timely manner and the information we have obtained strongly suggests more stringent oversight and communication is needed.

We applaud your previous intervention, which resulted in improved coordination and communication between various City of Chicago departments. In addition, we appreciated your bringing federal and city environmental officials to our Town Hall Meeting. However, there remains a piecemeal approach regarding oversight and compliance with regulations that concerns us. This is exacerbating the feeling of unease within the neighborhood on many levels, the most obvious being the unknown levels of contamination as they relate to future health problems.

While we understand the City has new priorities as a result of the 9-11 attacks, we are concerned that the critical environmental concerns of South Streeterville residents not be neglected.

We ask for a meeting with you in order to engage in a dialog that will result in improving communication between agencies, between agencies and the community and to further compliance with city, state and federal regulations. Residents of the 42nd Ward, South Streeterville in particular, have a right to expect responsible action from their city government to insure that health and safety issues are adequately addressed.


Streeterville Organization of Active Residents

Working to Keep Streeterville a Neighborhood

215 E. CHICAGO AVENUE, SUITE 2407, CHICAGO, IL 60611 TEL: 312/440-9325 FAX: 312/440-9328

We will contact your office in a few days to schedule an appointment.

Kind regards,



Rosalie Harris, President



Betty Eaton, Chair,
Real Estate Committee
South Streeterville Neighbors' Action Comm.



Brian Hopkins, 1st Vice President

cc: e-mail and hard copy

- Mayor Richard M. Daley
- Alicia Mazur Berg, Dept. Of Planning & Development
- William Abolt, Dept. Of Environment
- Miguel D'Escoto, Dept. Of Transportation
- Al Sanchez, Dept of Streets & Sanitation
- Thomas Skinner, USEPA Region 5 Administrator
- ✓ Vernetta Simon, USEPA Region 5 On-Scene Coordinator
- Mike Joyce, USEPA Region 5 Community Coordinator